

## Message Text

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72

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08

L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 FEA-02 OMB-01 SWF-02 DRC-01 /210 W

----- 042485

R 211729Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3860

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EFIN, EEC, XM, IT

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN-LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC CONFERENCE IN URUGUAY

REF: MONTEVIDEO 617, ROME 1849

1. MFA OFFICE CHIEF RESPONSIBLE FOR LA ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (COSTA)  
GAVE US BRIEF ACCOUNT OF MARCH 4-6 SUBJECT MEETING. ALTHOUGH HE  
DID NOT PERSONALLY ATTEND, HIS DEPUTY (LA CAVA) WAS PRESENT.  
GOI DELEBATION TO MEETING WAS HEADED BY MINISTER WITHOUT  
PORTFOLIO DIONIGI COPPO.

2. COSTA NOTED THAT MEETING WAS ORGANIZED BY ITALIAN-LATIN AMERICAN  
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INSTITUTE, WITH PARTICIPATION OF EC COMMISSION. HE DESCRIBED IT AS

A SORT OF ROUND TABLE OR DEBATE, WHOSE AIM WAS TO IMPROVE THE EC-LATIN AMERICAN DIALOGUE, AND FELT THAT THE MEETING SATISFACTORILY FULFILLED THIS RATHER LIMITED OBJECTIVE. COSTA ACKNOWLEDGED STRONG GOI INTEREST IN THE MEETING, IN CONTEXT OF CONTINUOUS GOI POKITICAL COMMITMENT OVER PAST TEN YEARS TO ACT AS BRIDGE BETWEEN EC AND LA. HE CHARACTERIZED ITALIAN POLICY AS (A) SEEKING AN INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF GLOBAL EC-LA DIALOGUE AND (B) FAVORING NONPREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN LA COUNTRIES AND EC.

3. COSTA STATED THAT MEETING FOCUSED MAINLY ON EC GENERALIZED PREFERENCE SYSTEM AND QUESTION OF FINANCIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN EC AND LA. LATIN AMERICANS REPORTEDLY DWELT AT LENGTH UPON NEED FOR BETTER MANAGED AND EXPANDED GENERALIZED PREFERENCE SYSTEM, COMPLAINING IN PARTICULAR THAT FULL UTILIZATION OF PREFERENTIAL QUOTAS DIFFICULT WHEN INFO LACKING AS TO WHEN QUOTA CEILINGS REACHED. THEY ALSO CALLED FOR BROADENING SYSTEM TO INCLUDE PROCESSED AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY EXPORTS. COSTA NOTED THAT CUBAN PARTICIPATION, ALTHOUGH POLEMICAL, WAS SOMEWHAT MORE MEASURED THAN SOME HAD EXPECTED.

4. ANOTHER MFA SOURCE ASSESSED RESULTS OF MONTEVIDEO MEETING AS POSTIVE ON BALANCE. HE REMARKED THAT DESPITE THE FACT THAT CONCEPT OF MEETING WAS OVER-AMBITIOUS, IT WAS POORLY PREPARED, AND LATIN AMERICANS HAD EXAGGERATED EXPECTATIONS AND UNCOORDINATED POSITIONS, DIALOGUE HAD BEEN OPENED BETWEEN EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA AND THIS IN ITSELF WAS AN ACHIEVEMENT. RE CUBAN PARTICIPATION, SOURCE OBSERVED THAT CUBANS HAD APPARENTLY BEHAVED THEMSELVES AND WERE PLEASED TO HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN EUROPEAN-LATIN AMERICAN CONCLAVE, PARTICULARLY SINCE THERE WAS NO US PRESENCE. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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**Film Number:** D740060-0877  
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